



Sonoqui Wash Improvements Project Fact Sheet

Project Background

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) conducted the Sonoqui Wash Floodplain Delineation Study and the Queen Creek & Sonoqui Wash Hydraulic Master Plan, which indicated that significant ponding and flood flow breakouts occur along Sonoqui Wash in the East Valley.



Project Area

The project is located within the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek and unincorporated Maricopa County. The 3.5-mile wash parallels the Ocotillo Road alignment from Power Road to the confluence with Queen Creek. From Chandler Heights Road to Power Road the channel flows in a northwesterly direction. The project will start at the confluence of Queen Creek Wash and Sonoqui Wash at the Ocotillo Road alignment and will end at Chandler Heights Road.

Project Overview

In conjunction with the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek, the District will design a multi-use conveyance channel capable of containing a 100-year storm event within the existing natural alignment of the Sonoqui Wash from Queen Creek Wash (Higley Road) to Chandler Heights Road. The project will include a pre-design study to determine the exact alignment of the Sonoqui Wash Channel and upstream capacity and evaluate equestrian and multi-use facilities.

The plan will be based on existing General Plans and Design Guidelines from the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek. The District is the lead agency for the project; the towns of Gilbert and Queen Creek are project partners contributing 50 percent of the project cost.

Project Benefits

The Sonoqui Wash Improvements Project:

- Reduces the existing floodplain width from one-half mile wide to 200 feet wide;
- Provides fiscally responsible solutions for flood hazards saving taxpayer dollars;
- Enhances the quality of life through diminishing the impacts of flooding; and
- Increases opportunities for multi-use facilities.

Project Schedule

In November 2003, the District awarded a design contract to Stanley Consultants with project completion scheduled in February 2005. Two public meetings are scheduled for April 2004 and September 2004.

Related Projects

Several private developments surrounding the north and south side of the channel require modification of the existing channel to 100-year flows. Plans are under way for changes to several crossings over the channel. The Town of Gilbert has retained Stanley Consultants to perform bridge design services at Higley Road and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is currently working on a Design Concept Report for the Chandler Heights Road Bridge over Sonoqui Wash. However, MCDOT has not allocated funding for the bridge. The design of the channel will coordinate with MCDOT's bridge design.

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